CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22 JANUARY 2019.

President **Graham Harker** opened the meeting at 19.30 hours and welcomed the 10 members present. He invited Br**ian Asquith** to proceed with his "**ON DRAGONS' WINGS – Chinese Air Mails"** display.

The dragon looms large in Chinese mythology. Early aircraft were thought of as dragons in the sky and Chinese airmails could therefore be described as being carried on their wings. Starting with a forerunner in the shape of a 1901 cover addressed to the Commanding Officer of the British Balloon Section which was based in China at the time of the Boxer Rebellion. There then followed pioneer, experimental and other internal flights from 1920 onwards including mail carried by the following airlines China National Aviation Corporation (owned by Pan Am & Chinese Government), Eurasia Aviation Corporation (owned by Lufthansa & Chinese Government) and South Western Aviation Corporation (Owned by Kwangtung Provincial Government)**.** Also displayed were attempts to speed the mail internationally such as D'oisy and

Carol’s record breaking flight Paris – Peking 11 June 1926 and special flights on which mail was carried by authority of the Chinese Post Office, including De Pinedo's China–Japan flight in 1925.

The World War II Period, 1939-1945, was covered including some route changes necessitated by the war and Japanese invasion, directional markings and postal markings such as the Hami – Alma Ata route through and Russia and En Dépêche Closé.

Examples of mail between 1946 and 1949 covered the Communist Revolution and the high inflation rates during this period. Brian expressed his thanks to Croydon Philatelic Society member **Gregory W.K. Loh MBE** for his translations, over many years, without whose help he could not have put the collection together.

Members viewed the display and President **Graham Harker** thanked Brian for his impressive and informative display and the interesting commentary on the material. The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

Brian Asquith/Graham Harker
Ref: CroyPhilSocNotes22.01.19.doc
24.01.2019